

## Amnesty makes a new start

By a Special Correspondent

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In almost total secrecy, Amnesty International—the organisation set up to defend the rights of political prisoners—met here this weekend to accept the resignation as president of Mr Peter Benenson. In future, the organisation is to be headed by a director-general.

Amnesty wants an independent investigation into the role of intelligence services in relation to nongovernmental bodies and private individuals. It is also establishing two working parties to investigate its administrative structure and field operations.

These moves follow recent allegations of governmental interference — by the British government in trying to suppress a report on the treatment of political detainees in Aden, and the US government through Central Intelligence Agency subsidies to the International Commission of Jurists, whose secretary-general, Mr Sean MacBride, is chairman of Amnesty's international executive. Mr MacBride has denied that the money ever had strings attached.